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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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# 2021 Tioga Research CSRC Award Won by Nadia B. Mendoza

SAN DIEGO, Calif. – March 26, 2021 – Nadia Bernardo Mendoza, a PhD candidate in the Computational Science Research Center at San Diego State University ("CSRC") was announced today as the winner of the Tioga Research award at the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual CSRC ACSESS for Industry Event.

COVID-19 pandemic constraints inspired a new format for the 2021 ACSESS student poster session. Each of 24 poster presenters recorded a five-minute video that was made available to ACSESS meeting attendees earlier in the week, and each then delivered a 60-second summary of their poster in a 'Blitz' session at the ACSESS event itself. Posters were reviewed by a panel of 33 judges. The winner of the Tioga Research award was selected by this independent panel of judges.

Nadia's presentation, entitled 'Classifying HIV Positive Cases in the Presence of Missing Values in a Uganda Study', explores different imputation methods for the dataset which has 60% incomplete observations. Simulations after imputation increased HIV status prediction accuracy from about 63% to 75% and sensitivity for new HIV positive status from 40% to 90%. Nadia's faculty advisors are Professor Chii-Dean Lin and Professor Barbara Bailey.

"Computational methods have been a part of Tioga Research's agenda since the genesis of our predecessor company, fqubed, Inc., 20 years ago." explained John M. Newsam Tioga Research CEO and Chairman of the CSRC Advisory Board. "We have hosted CSRC student interns to work on projects in molecular simulation, graphic data representations, artificial intelligence ("AI") and natural language processing. The connection with CSRC is valuable for the company, especially as the utility of these various approaches progressively grows. CRSC programs presented at the Annual SCSESS meeting are always notable in their breadth. Topics this year spanned geophysics, wireless networks, unmanned aircraft, pricing models, machine learning techniques, nuclear physics, oceanography, astrophysics, heat transfer, colonization by and management of infectious disease agents, and mathematical methods. I'd also like to acknowledge the dedication and commitment of the CSRB Advisory Board ("AB") members, representing national laboratories, leading companies and academic institutions. The AB members selflessly volunteer significant time and effort in support of the CSRC and CSRC students. It is a privilege to be part of this team."

#### **About CSRC**

The Computational Science Research Center (CSRC) (<a href="http://www.csrc.sdsu.edu/">http://www.csrc.sdsu.edu/</a>) was established in 1999 at San Diego State University (SDSU) as an outgrowth of the Interdisciplinary Research Center. Its mission is to promote the development and advancement of computational science by bringing together researchers in different areas who have a common interest in modern scientific computation. Envisioned as the coordinating body of a partnership involving several participating departments, the CSRC welcomes interactions across all SDSU departments, as well as those from other California University campuses. The CSRC pursues initiatives aimed at fostering interdisciplinary, computationally-oriented scientific research, by providing computing infrastructure and support for students, by developing educational programs and by nurturing industry interactions.

### About Tioga Research, Inc.

Tioga Research supports the research and early development of skin-applied products, offering formulation innovation and skin permeation screening CRO services. The company has pioneered high throughput experimentation ("HTE") technologies for screening skin delivery. Tioga Research was founded in 2011, to support innovations in skin-applied products, especially topical and transdermal drug products, and including skin care products and cosmetics. With headquarters and laboratory operations in San Diego, CA and a business presence in the UK to support clients in Europe, Tioga Research has become a preferred service provider for an impressive portfolio of clients across the Americas, Europe and Asia. Tioga Research has been a subsidiary of Encube Ethicals since early 2020, enabling clients to leverage the combined strengths of both organizations from early formulation innovation through to commercial manufacturing.

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